

Patent
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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the following claims according to the following replacement claim set:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a refrigeration system having a compressor, condenser condenser and evaporator, the method comprising:
controlling [[the]] an effective surface area of the evaporator to obtain a desired heat load on the evaporator, wherein the effective surface area is wetted by a liquid refrigerant; and
controlling a temperature of the liquid refrigerant in the evaporator so that the effective surface area of the evaporator is maintained substantially at a set temperature.
2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
controlling the flow of [[a]] the liquid refrigerant [[fluid]] into the evaporator to obtain the effective surface area.
3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
measuring the effective surface area of the evaporator
controlling the temperature of the liquid refrigerant by controlling a pressure within the evaporator.
4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
varying the desired heat load [[to]] on the evaporator as a function of the present capacity of the compressor.
5. (Original) The method of claim 4, further comprising:
varying the capacity of the compressor as a function of the presently available power.
6. (Original) The method of claim 5, further comprising:
monitoring the power available from an electrical grid; and

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monitoring the power demanded by the compressor, wherein the capacity of the compressor is varied so that the power demanded by the compressor tracks the presently available power from the electrical grid.

7. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the capacity of the compressor is varied by controlling the rate at which vapor is compressed.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the step of controlling the rate at which vapor is compressed comprises one or more step selected from controlling the flow of gas into the compressor, controlling the compression ratio of the compressor, controlling the number of cylinders used for the compression cycle, controlling the speed of the compressor, and combinations thereof.

9. (Original) The method of claim 7, further comprising unloading a subportion of the compressor.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the subportion of the compressor is unloaded by positioning an intake valve to one or more compressor cylinders in an open position.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, wherein the step of controlling the capacity of the compressor comprises one or more step selected from hot gas bypassing, varying the amount of heat removed from the condenser, varying the amount of heat removed from the evaporator, and combinations thereof.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising cycling the compressor.

13. (Original) The method of claim 7, further comprising adjusting the rotational speed of the compressor.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of controlling the capacity of the compressor includes varying the speed or torque of the compressor.

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15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

determining the present capacity of the refrigeration system by monitoring one or more system variables selected from evaporator system temperature, evaporator system pressure, condenser system temperature, condenser system pressure, level of refrigerant in the high side liquid receiver, refrigeration level in the evaporator, compressor rotational speed, system power input, line voltage, line current, and line phase factor.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, further comprising:

determining the present capacity of the compressor.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[16]] 15, further comprising:

controlling the heat load in proportion to the present capacity of the compressor.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the heat load is determined by the amount of product to be processed.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the product is ice.

20. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

controlling the power delivered to the compressor as a function of the amount of power determined to be available; and

adjusting the heat load as a function of a condition of the evaporator, wherein the condition is selected from physical measurements.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein the physical measurements are selected from evaporator temperature, level of refrigerant in the evaporator, evaporator suction pressure, evaporator discharge pressure, and combinations thereof.

22. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the step of controlling the heat load further comprises:

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controlling the flow of refrigerant to maintain the evaporator in a flooded mode; and
controlling the level of refrigerant in the evaporator to effect a desired heat load

23. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the refrigeration unit includes an icemaker, and further comprising adjusting the feed water distribution to change the contact between the water and the evaporator.

24. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein the icemaker is selected from a block ice machine, a tube chunk machine, a spinning disk flake machine, a drum and scraper flake machine, and slush ice machine.

25. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

delivering the refrigerant to the evaporator continuously or periodically based on system operating parameters.

26. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

evacuating, during periods of surplus power, a low pressure reservoir; and

providing communication, during periods of limited power availability, of the low pressure reservoir with the suction side of the compressor.

27. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

controlling the position or number of water introduction conduits across the evaporator surface.

28. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

(a) controlling the pressure of the evaporator to control the evaporator temperature.

29-43. (Cancelled)